

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /096 W
-----030599 142247Z /62

P R 142200Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8854
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3636

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, SHUM ES
SUBJ: MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3340

SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM TWO REPORTED MEMBERS OF FARN OFFERING TO RETURN MATSUMOTO FOR U.S. \$150,000. GOJ WILL PURSUE, IF FURTHER CONTACT MADE, HOWEVER JAPANESE EMBASSY AND MATSUMOTO COMPANY (INSINCA) OFFICIALS FEEL LETTER PROBABLY SHAKE-DOWN EFFORT AND MATSUMOTO IN FACT DEAD. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY KURATA VISITED EMBASSY AFTERNOONS JULY 12 AND 13 TO DISCUSS MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING. ON JULY 12 KURATA SHOWED EMBOFFS HAND-WRITTEN NOTE FROM TWO PERSONS ALEGING TO BE MEMBERS OF FARN.
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NOTE STATED MATSUMOTO STILL ALIVE, BUT VERY ILL. THEY CLAIMED TWO OF THEM (WRITERS OF NOTE) SHARED WITH FOUR OTHER FARN MEMBERS, DUTY OF GUARDING MATSUMOTO. STATED THAT FRIDAY, JULY 14 AND SATURDAY, JULY 15 THEY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT MATSUMOTO RELEASE PROVIDED EMBASSY, COMPANY OR FAMILY WOULD GIVE THEM, IN ADVANCE, U.S. \$150,000. SOME DETAILS AS TO EXCHANGE OF MONEY WERE DISCUSSED (17,500

COLONES TO BE INCLUDED, MONEY IN OLD SUITCASE, ETC.) BUT NO INDICATION AS TO WHERE MATSUMOTO BEING HELD OR ANY TYPE OF PROOF THAT WRITERS OF NOTE INDEED HAD ACCESS TO MATSUMOTO. STATED THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY WOULD BE CONTACTED WITH FURTHER DETAILS JULY 14 OR 15. FOR FIRST TIME IN MATSUMOTO CASE, JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS WITHHELD THIS LATEST INFORMATION FROM GOES OFFICIALS AND ADVISED ONLY JAPANESE OFFICERS OF INSINCA AND U.S. EMBASSY. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT NOTE (WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO JAPANESE EMBASSY) COULD WELL BE ATTEMPT TO EXTORT MONEY BASED ON INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN PRESS. KURATA AGREED, BUT STATED THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY WOULD PURSUE THIS INFORMATION AND WOULD IN FACT BE WILLING TO PAY THE \$150,000 FOR RETURN OF BODY IF MATSUMOTO DECEASED. HE ADDED THEY WOULD REQUIRE FAR MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROOF THAT AUTHORS OF LETTER COULD PRODUCE MATSUMOTO PRIOR TO PROVIDING MONEY.

2. KURATA VISITED EMBOFFS AGAIN LATE AFTERNOON JULY 13. HE STATED THAT WHILE HE HAD BEEN AT U.S. EMBASSY PREVIOUS DAY, REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY AND JAPANESE MEMBERS OF INSINCA HAD BEEN WITH GENERAL ALVARENGA, CHIEF OF NATIONAL GUARD. MEETING WITH ALVARENGA ARRANGED BY SUBSECRETARY OF DEFENSE IRAHETA WHEN JAPANESE INSISTED ON FULL INFORMATION AS TO WHY GOES CONVINCED MATSUMOTO DEAD. ALVARENGA PRODUCED NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND INTERCEPTED CORRESPONDENCE OF TERRORIST GROUPS THAT KURATA SAID CONVINCED JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES THAT MATSUMOTO WAS DEAD. HE STATED THAT DESPITE THIS CONVIC-
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TION, GOJ WOULD PURSUE NOTE FROM ALLEGED FARN MEMBERS, BUT THAT THEY WOULD DEMAND SUBSTANTIAL AND RELIABLE PROOF OF RETURN OF MATSUMOTO PRIOR TO PROVIDING MONEY.

3. COMMENT: JAPANESE OFFICIALS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENT BUT ARE WILLING TO GIVE ONE LAST TRY TO RESOLVE ISSUE. ALSO OF SOME INTEREST THAT ALL PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND NOW GEN. ALVARENGA OF NATIONAL GUARD CALLED IN AS FINAL AUTHORITY ON CASE.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, SHUM, ES, JA, (MATSUMOTO, FUJIO)
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Type: TE
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